

DX LISTENING DIGEST 6-049, March 22, 2006
Incorporating REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING
edited by Glenn Hauser, <http://www.worldofradio.com>

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FIRST SW AIRINGS OF WORLD OF RADIO 1309:

Wed 2300 on WBCQ 7415
Thu 0000 on WBCQ 18910-CLSB
Thu 2130 on WWCR 15825
Sat 0600 on WRMI 9955
Sat 0900 on WRN Bulgaria DRM 15735
Sat 1700 on WWCR 12160
Sun 0330 on WWCR 5070
Sun 0400 on WBCQ 9330-CLSB
Sun 0530 on WRMI 9955
Sun 0730 on WWCR 3215

Full schedule, including AM, FM, satellite and internet, with hotlinks to station sites and audio: <http://www.worldofradio.com/radioskd.html>

For latest updates see our Anomaly Alert page:
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WRN ON DEMAND:

<http://new.wrn.org/listeners/stations/station.php?StationID=24>

OUR ONDEMAND AUDIO [also CONTINENT OF MEDIA, MUNDO RADIAL]

<http://www.worldofradio.com/audiomid.html>

or <http://wor.worldofradio.org>

WORLD OF RADIO PODCASTS: www.obriensweb.com/wor.xml

** AFRICA. Wonder if you might be able to help me. As well as a keen SWL, I'm also an avid collector of worldwide airchecks, mainly from the 1970s. I have been collecting for many years and like many others

I have lots of recordings of the Pirate stations such as Radio Caroline as well as land based legal stations from England, Europe and the states (WABC being a favourite of mine!) The question is that I'm trying to track down any collectors in Africa that might have old radio recordings that might be interested in trading recordings. My main interest is in pop format stations that include all the records as well as DJ chat, etc. Do you know of any collectors and/or sites in Africa where I could put my request in the hope of getting a few contacts. Any help/info would be much appreciated. I'd also be interested in collectors in other distant countries too that might be interested in trading airchecks mike.grant1 @ tesco.net (Mike Grant, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Don't know of any but perhaps this notice will get some response (gh)

** ARMENIA. Dear Glenn, I checked from my logbooks and it seems that in November 2005 the Public Radio of Armenia in fact did broadcast in English at 1930 UT. This is also confirmed in the QSL I received. However, while monitoring it on March it seems that they broadcast in French at 1930. The frequencies are 9965 and 4810 kHz. It really seems to be incorrect time in their Website winter schedule. However they have in addition to these shortwave broadcasts the satellite and Internet broadcasts too from Yerevan (Jukka Kinkamo, Finland, March 22, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** AUSTRALIA. Hi Everyone. I've been monitoring this cyclone very closely as I'm flying to Cairns on Thursday morning from Nhulunbuy. Last night and during the early morning hours, just prior to the eye of the cyclone hitting Innisfail, 4KZ on 531 was still audible, but by then I'd hit local sunrise and the signal faded.

Currently the QLD ABC stations on 720 and 801 are supposed to be still on. Mind you the cyclone just recently went through Atherton so it may have wiped out 720. So far the FM transmitters are fareing worst, 106.7FM in Cairns has been knocked out.

I'm able to monitor the situation on local radio on 1044 Weipa and 1062 Thursday Island 24 hours a day. In the evening 630 Townsville and 567 Julia Creek are pretty good. 630 has separate programming from the Townsville studio whereas all other outlets are relaying the Cairns studio.

For those in the southern states, you can monitor the situation on shortwave as the Cairns studio is being relayed during the evening on 6020 and daytime on 11650.

At certain times of the night I had to do this as there was DX interference, i.e. KGUM on 567, RRI Biak on 1044, RRI Makassar on 630

& DZEC on 1062.

There are major blackouts which Ergon Energy may take days to fix, but the stations are on generator back-up. Cheers ñ (Craig Edwards Nhulunbuy (Gove), Northern Territory, Australia via the Australian - NZ - Asia MW group (03:47 20/3-2006) via Ydun's MW News via DXLD)

** AUSTRALIA. Re 6-048: Hi Wade, Also noted here in central California: 6020, ABC Brisbane, Mar 20, 1347-1410, relay over RA, "Nightlight" program with Tony Delroy, website: <http://www.abc.net.au/backyard/presenters/TONYDELROY.htm?brisbane> call-in program ("Lines open at 1-300-800-2222"), callers talking about Cyclone Larry and other natural disasters, Paul McCartney with public service announcement, ToH ABC news and weather, fair/good. (Ron Howard, Monterey, CA, RX340, with T2FD antenna, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Mar 21, at 0956 heard usual RA programming on 6020. Mar 22, at 1101 ABC news, 1110 into ABC Local Radio coverage of the Melbourne Commonwealth Games. Good reception (Ron Howard, Monterey, CA, RX340, with T2FD antenna, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** AUSTRALIA. Radio2 (World Audio) placed in Administration!!! (Tim Gaynor, Australia, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST) Viz.:

NO BAND OF GOLD: AUDIO IN ADMIN
Jane Schulze 22mar06 from The Australian

ADMINISTRATORS have been appointed to controversial radio network World Audio after a failed experiment in attracting listeners and advertisers to the far ends of the radio dial. [X-band]

World Audio has burned through \$6.5 million from its float in 2002, plus another \$8 million raised in 2004, without gaining a solid foothold in the market.

Company accounts lodged last week showed negative operating cash flows of \$2.4 million for the quarter to December 31 and advertising revenue of just \$126,579.

The company yesterday said administrators had been called in after it was unable to secure further funds. It had raised \$895,000 from "individual investors" just last month.

Contracts for on-air talent, such as breakfast co-host Mikey Robins, had been extended for a month after the group gained extra funds from investors to keep the stations on air, said administrator Bob Elliott from Hall Chadwick.

The company plans to seek more funding or find a buyer.

"We obtained from secured lenders additional funding to use to fund the business through an administration period of four weeks and what happens in that period determines where the business goes from there," he said.

Mr Elliott said the funding, in the range of "hundreds of thousands of dollars", would fund the salaries of the six on-air presenters and 15 staff.

World Audio set up 50 cheap, low-power AM stations around Australia, outside the official broadcasting bands.

It was betting the federal Government would allow all radio stations, and not only the ones on the "official" bands, to convert to digital, a change that would have made its signals as strong as its rivals.

But with companies paying more than \$100 million for full-strength signals, the industry lobbied against "backdoor" entrants and was supported by the Government when it revealed its digital radio plan last October.

World Audio launched in 2002 with high-profile investors such as Ten Network director Laurence Freedman.

He was later joined by Harvey Norman chairman Gerry Harvey who injected \$1.5 million as part of the 2004 raising.

Mr Freedman said he was disappointed by the news.

"It's not the end of the road, but it's time to stop and reassess the situation - they have these great assets but it's not revenue-producing," he said.

He agreed that that might be because of the weak radio signal.

"It doesn't broadcast in the eastern suburbs of Sydney and that's where some of the investors would live, but you can hear it fine everywhere else."

Mr Freedman, who has about 10 per cent of the company, said he would consider a further investment "in the right circumstances".
(As posted on aus.radio.broadcast via Tim Gaynor, dxldyg via DXLD)

See <http://www.worldaudio.com.au> (Media Network blog via DXLD)

★★ CANADA. R. Canada International

A-06 schedule effective from *2 April 2006*
[during week of confusion, transmissions to NAm one UT hour later]

Arabic

0200-0259 ME 5840hby 5955wer
0300-0359 ME 7230wer 9520mos
1915-1944 ME/nAF 13650sac 15180mos FM(vol): 93.3 93.4 93.6

Chinese

0000-0059 China 9690kim 11895kim
1300-1329 China 9660yam 15170yam
1430-1459 China 11935yam 15295yam
2200-2259 China 9525kim 9870kim 12035yam

English

0000-0057 seAS 11700kun
0000-0159 N+CAM 9755sac
0100-0159 NAM 13710sac
1200-1259 AS/China 9660yam 15170yam
1300-1559 N+CAM 9515sac 13655sac 17800sac
1500-1557 India 11675kun 15360wer 17720uru
1800-1859 AF 9630wer 11765kas 13730wer 15255skn
2000-2059 EU 5850hby 7235skn 11765wer 15325sac
2000-2159 N+CAM 17765sac
2200-2259 NAM 6100sac
2230-2259 EU 1179sol

French

0300-0359 NAM 6040sac
1100-1259 N+CAM 9515sac
1600-1959 N+CAM 17765sac
1900-1959 EU 5850hby 15325sac
1900-1959 AF 7235skn 11765kas 13730skn 15235sac 15255skn
2100-2159 nAF 9665hby 11810skn 15325sac
2200-2259 N+CAM 15180sac
2300-2329 AS 9525kim 12035yam 13660yam
2300-2359 NAM 6100sac

Portuguese (fr-su only)

2100-2129 Brazil 15455sac 17860sac
2130-2159 Brazil 17860sac
2200-2229 Brazil 17860sac
2230-2259 Brazil 17860sac
2300-2329 Brazil 13710sac 17860sac
2330-2359 Brazil 17860sac

[interesting that it is now set up to run 3 hours continuously, at least on 17860; so is it still one half hour program repeated over and

over? Are the Sat & Sun airings also just repeats?? --- gh]

Russian

1500-1529 Russia 11935wof 15325rmp
1600-1629 Russia 11935wof 15325rmp

Spanish

0000-0059 C+SAM 11990sac 13725sac
0200-0259 CAM/Carib 9755sac 13710sac
2200-2259 SAM 11990sac 15455sac
2300-2359 Carib/SAM 11990sac 15455sac

Ukrainian (sa-su only)

1600-1629 Ukraine UR-3 network (nrcu)

Transmitters

fle: Flevo,
hby: Hoerby,
kas: Kashi,
kim: Kimjae,
kun: Kunming,
mos: Moosbrunn,
nrcu: National Radio Co., Ukraine
rmp: Rampisham,
sac: Sackville,
skn: Skelton,
sol: S^lvesborg,
uru: Urumqi,
vol: Voice of Lebanon,
wer: Wertachtal,
wof: Woofferton

(RCI Web site, following tip from John Norfolk in dxldyg, re-arranged from pdf file by Alan Roe, worldclub via DXLD)

** CANADA. A-06 relays via Sackville other than RCI:

All 2603 to 291006; daily u.o.s.; analog unless N = DRM

[gh added many languages based on previous usage, especially CRI]

kHz	frm	UT to	CIRAF	kW	deg	slew	d	N	Language	station
5960	0000	0100	7,8,11W	250	240	0			Chinese	CAN CRI RTC
5960	0200	0500	6-8	250	240	0			Japanese	CAN NHK NHK
6010	0100	0200	7-11	250	240	0			Swedish/English	CAN RSW RCI
6010	0200	0300	6-8,10	250	268	0			Swedish/English	CAN RSW RCI
6040	1000	1200	7,8,11NW	250	240	0			Mandarin	CAN CRI RTC
6045	0600	0630	27	250	60	0			Spanish	CAN KBS RCI
6045	0600	0630	27S,37S	250	60	0			Spanish	KOR KBS KBS
6090	0400	0500	7,8N,11NW	250	277	0			English	CAN CRI RTC

6100	0000	0359	6E,7,8,10	250	277	0	German	CAN	DWL	DWL
6100	0400	0430	6-8	250	268	0	[R. Prague English]	G	RPR	MER
6110	0500	0600	6-8	250	268	0	English	CAN	NHK	NHK
6120	1000	1100	6-8	250	240	0	English	CAN	NHK	NHK
6120	1100	1200	6-8	250	240	0	English	CAN	NHK	NHK
6145	0000	0100	6-8	250	240	0	English	CAN	NHK	NHK
6145	2300	2400	7,8,11W	250	240	0	English	CAN	CRI	RTC
6175	0100	0430	6,10N	250	212	0	Eng/Viet/Span	G	VOV	MER
6175	0430	0530	2,6	250	240	0	Vietnamese	G	VOV	MER
6190	0500	0600	7,8N,8SW	250	277	0	English	CAN	CRI	RTC
9490	0000	0030	8,11-15	250	163	-13	Swedish	CAN	RSW	RCI
9525	2300	2357	11-13	250	189	13	Dutch	CAN	RNW	RNW
9560	0200	0300	6-8	250	277	0	English	CAN	KBS	RCI
9560	0200	0300	6-8	250	277	0	English	KOR	KBS	KBS
9560	0300	0400	11,12,14,	250	189	0	Spanish	CAN	CRI	RTC
9560	0400	0600	6,7,8NW	250	277	0	English	CAN	CRI	RTC
9560	1200	1300	7,8,11NW	250	240	0	English	CAN	CRI	RTC
9625	1045	0515	4,9	100	348	0	[CBC Northern Q]	CAN	RCI	RCI
9650	1000	1100	7N,8N	250	268	0	Spanish	CAN	KBS	RCI
9650	1200	1300	7,8	250	268	0	English	KOR	KBS	KBS
9650	1200	1300	7N,8N	250	268	0	English	CAN	KBS	RCI
9650	1300	1400	6,7,8NW	250	240	0	English	CAN	CRI	RTC
9650	1400	1500	7,8	250	268	0	Korean	KOR	KBS	KBS
9660	2330	2400	11W	250	212	0	[R. Prague Spanish]	G	RPR	MER
9790	0100	0200	7,8N	250	277	0	English	CAN	CRI	RTC
9800	1945	2030	7N,8N	70	268	0	N English	CAN	VAT	RCI
9800	2030	2057	4,8,9	70	268	0	N English	CAN	RNW	RNW
9800	2100	2200	7N,8N	70	268	0	N English	CAN	RCI	RCI
9800	2200	2230	7N,8N	70	268	0	N English	CAN	DWL	DWL
9800	2230	2300	7N,8N	70	268	0	N English	CAN	RSW	RCI
11705	1300	1500	6-8	250	240	0	Japanese	CAN	NHK	NHK
11750	1100	1200	6,7,8NW,1	250	272	0	English	CAN	CRI	RTC
11795	1100	1200	11-16	250	176	0	Spanish	CAN	KBS	RCI
11795	1100	1200	11-16	250	176	0	Spanish	KOR	KBS	KBS
11900	1600	1800	8	70	240	0	7 N English	CAN	TDP	TDP
11930	0000	0100	6,7,8NW	250	277	0	Chinese	CAN	CRI	RTC
12040	1200	1400	4,8,11	250	227	-13	German	CAN	DWL	DWL
13680	2300	2400	6,7N	250	285	0	English	CAN	CRI	RTC
13700	2200	2300	11,12E,13	250	176	0	Spanish	CAN	CRI	RTC
13710	1200	1300	7,8	250	240	0	Mandarin	CHN	CRI	RTC
13775	1500	1600	6-8	250	272	-13	German/English	CAN	ORF	ORS
15220	1400	1600	6,7,8NW,1	250	272	0	Mandarin	CAN	CRI	RTC
15240	1300	1400	6,7	250	272	-13	Swedish/English	CAN	RSW	RCI
15260	1300	1400	6,7,8NW,1	250	272	0	English	CAN	CRI	RTC
15445	1500	1600	6,7,10N	250	272	-13	German	CAN	DWL	DWL
15595	1000	1200	12,13,15	250	176	0	German	CAN	DWL	DWL
17660	1900	2057	2,3,6,7,1	250	285	0	17 English	CAN	RNW	RNW

(via Wolfgang B,schel, fixed up by gh for DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CANADA. Here is the webpage link for Radio Chalom, the station given CRTC approval to begin operations on 1650 kHz. AM.
<http://www.radio-shalom.ca/> If you're interested in finding out what to expect from this station, it has been running on-line for a long time. You can see the programme line-up and listen on-line through this web page (Sheldon Harvey, March 16, CIDX yg via DXLD)

** CANADA. Re COM 06-01, Star Ray TV: this was in our local free-bee weekly March 16:

HIS REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE TELEVISED ñ YET --- BY DALE DUNCAN
How Jan Pachul's tiny, beleaguered (and temporarily defunct) pirate UHF station opened the door for neighbourhood television
http://www.eyenet.net/eye/issue/issue_03.16.06/features/feature2.html
(via Peter Ho, Toronto, DXLD) + sidebar on CFTV-34 Leamington (gh)

** CATALUNYA. Farewell Pals --- Well, folks, Nostalgia, if can be named that way, is at its highest point at this time when Playa de Pals antenna towers are about to be blown at 1600 Spain local. I just made a trip about some websites with pictures and history about this broadcasting complex, from where I used to receive and enjoy Radio Free Europe Romanian service, because of their selected rock music slots after news, after 0500 back in the 80s.

The same fate of VOA's Bethany, Ohio complex and BBC and DW transmitters in Montserrat is taking place today on that Spanish shore. A tear and a minute of silence from not so distant Tiquicia to pay my respects for it (Ra'l Saavedra, Costa Rica, March 22, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

LES ANTENES DE R  DIO LIBERTY JA S  N A TERRA

Una vintena d'explosions han aterrat avui les tretze antenes de R  dio Liberty de la platja de Pals. L'aterrament s'ha fet la vig  lia dels quaranta-set anys de la primera emissi  . S'hi van aixecar per poder emetre als pa  sos sovi  tics, durant la Guerra Freda, programes fets des dels EUA. Per   R  dio Liberty ja havia em  s des d'uns altres llocs d'Europa, i encara emet des d'Alemanya, Gr  cia o el Marroc, si b   amb finalitats diferents.
<http://www.rferl.org/specials/50Years/history/rferl-history.html>

Els interessats poden escoltar en directe l'actual R  dio Free Europe - R  dio Liberty <http://www.rferl.org/listen/>

Les instal  acions de Pals, a la xarxa

Algunes universitats havien demanat de conserva el complex emissor de

Ràdio Liberty, perquè el consideraven un museu de l'electrònica i de la ràdio com n'hi ha pocs al món. Però el cost del manteniment, i més raons, han decidit el govern a enderrocar-lo abans que no es deteriorés gaire. Un dels antics treballadors de l'emissora ha creat <http://www.RadioLiberty.org> un autèntic museu virtual de les instal·lacions de la platja de Pals. S'hi poden trobar fotografies <http://www.radioliberty.org/recintcat.html> documents <http://www.radioliberty.org/documentscat.html> un resum de la història de l'emissora <http://www.radioliberty.org/intro-cat.html> i fins i tot s'hi poden escoltar alguns dels programes emesos. <http://www.radioliberty.org/audiocat.html>

Una Ràdio Liberty actual, a Bielorússia

Des del 26 de febrer una emissora <http://www.belradio.fm/news.php> amb objectius semblants als de Ràdio Liberty emet per a Bielorússia <http://www.liberation.fr/page.php?Article=368661> un país que molts analistes consideren la darrera dictadura d'Europa, i que acaba de passar unes eleccions presidencials plenes d'acusacions de frau (ROCA OLLER, ENRIC, DIMECRES, 22/03/2006 - 16:00h via Dario Monferini, DXLD)

** CHINA [and non]. CNR-1, QSYed to 18180 kHz at 0015 UT on 21 Mar. Sound of Hope on 17350 kHz at 233 5s/off on 20 Mar. and CNR-1 at 0005 to 0008 s/off (NDXC HQ March 21, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

I guess this implies SOH must have moved to 18180, then. Outside the so-called ``17 meter`` hamband, at least (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CONGO [non]. Re reports of R. Congo, Brazzaville on 9610 around 1925-1940: Here is the 9610 IBRA R, Juelich schedule for Fri and Sat:

Fridays

1900-1930 Fulfulde

1930-1945 Malinke (Sat Moore lang)

1945-2000 Dyula (also Sat)

2000-2015 Wolof (also Sat)

2015-2030 Hausa daily

2030-2045 Tamajeq (Sat, Tue to Wed French) (Sun/Mon Bambara)

broadcasts in Vernaculars, and on Friday Mar 10 I heard Vernacular at 2040-2045* when IBRA has French. Anker, that seems not correct !

IBRA schedule has TAMAJEQ lang on Fridays at 2030-2045 UT.

French only on Tue/Wed/Sat at 2030-2045 UT, Sun/Mon in Bambara lang.

- - -

Listen to the recent recording, made tonight between 1930 and 2005 UT

on 9610 kHz, carrier seems exact on 9610.00 kHz, but heavy sideband QRM by CRI Urumchi 500 kW powerhouse.

I heard never French announcements by the two locutors, even once I heard an address of Abidjan, Ivory Coast - Côte d'Ivoire !!! Other native music sounded from Gambia local area.

Music noted as central African folk music like a native guitar, etc., never heard modern pop music from Congo etc. So, I guess I heard IBRA Radio program from Juelich site only. Excuse the heavy side band splash audio. 73 wb Mar 18 (Wolfgang B,schel, to Anker Petersen and Vashek Korinek, via DXLD)

Dear Wolfy and Anker, sorry for a delay in replying - I have actually managed to disappear for a DXpedition for 5 days. I have received your first e-mail the night before my departure, but after that I ended up in a place with no mobile phones, no e-mail etc. (it is actually one of the attractions of that location!). Just returned from the trip now.

Anyway, I have checked several times during mornings, evenings and during the daylight hours 9610, 5985, 6115 and 4765 and I am convinced that Congo Brazzaville is currently not on shortwaves, at least not on these frequencies (unless there were some highly unusual propagation conditions, which would be extremely unlikely). I'm not sure what other people are hearing on 9610 but it must be some sort of misunderstanding - I did not even come across any French on that frequency. Hopefully Congo's absence from SW is not permanent!

I hope to have some more positive news next time! Cheers, (Vashek Korinek, RSA, March 18, via B,schel, DXLD)

Thanks very much, dear Vashek. 73 (Wolfgang
<http://www.wwdxc.de/topnews.htm> via DXLD)

** GABON. Africa NumÈro Un. Not sure if this has been observed and reported before. At about 1445 UT today, Tuesday March 21, I checked 17630 for Africa NumÈro Un and for the "wandering African music jammer" which was on 17685 today. Both frequencies were in parallel with the same music. I had two radios on, side by side, to be sure about it. This continued to 1503 when there was silence for a few seconds on 17630 followed by news in French and normal programming. Meanwhile 17685 continued until 1530 with the usual music. So this leaves no doubt that the music on the "jammer" is from Gabon (Bernie O'Shea, Ottawa, Ontario, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Good work! First such confirmation I know of what we have long suspected (gh, DXLD)

Extremely interesting! Thank you. This also leaves a couple of questions unanswered: for instance, who pays for this jamming? And why does Gabon agree? 73, (Erik K'ie, Copenhagen, ibid.)

I doubt that Gabon as a country cares, or even knows, as the facility is essentially a French entity. Ask why FRANCE agrees (gh, ibid.)

Nothing more than a confirmed surprise that was forwarded weeks ago. I pointed out that this could be possible in the sense that ANO site has more than one transmitter. What happened this time is that they were caught in their own trap (or game) by mistake. Who pays for this jamming? That's our next task to find out. And Gabon is involved in this is just because someone is paying for transmitter time from them, I'd guess. Business is business, after all (Ra'l Saavedra, Costa Rica, ibid.) See also LIBYA [and non]

Two transmitters have recently been operating during the Clandestine transmission - ANO on 17630 and the Afro-Cuban music on whatever 17 MHz channel is in use on that day. ANO 17630 has been heard on air at 0700 and until c1557. It still goes off for about 30 minutes or so around 1030 to around 1100 and I assume this is because it moves to 21820 to carry NHK programmes in Italian and Swedish. But after then there is no break until final close.

I'm not sure what time the Afro-Cuban music starts but I hear it before the Clandestine goes off c1400. Hearing this in parallel with ANO is very good monitoring - sooner or later something occurs to give away the identity of stations like this.

I agree with Glenn and Raul that using Gabon facilities will be a business deal and not a political one. And obviously "someone" has been coordinating the jamming. I don't know the name of the French Foreign Affairs minister, or even the head of the French equivalent of the CIA, but they might know something about it. 73 (Noel R. Green, UK, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** INTERNATIONAL WATERS [non?]. I've been monitoring 6844 for a few days and came up with some traffic today in possible Somali but no English at 2244 (Steve Lare, Holland, MI, March 20, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

The interesting broadcast from the Coalition Maritime Forces heard here at 2302 on 6844 USB. Alternating in English/Somali (or Arabic). Transmission ended at 2310. Thanks to Harold Frodge for the tip in DXLD 6-046 [UNIDENTIFIED]. (Steve Lare, Holland, MI, USA, March 21, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST) Perhaps our contributor in the Indian Ocean can give us a report on this one as well (Steve Lare, Holland,

MI USA, swl at qth.net via DXLD)

** ISRAEL. Kol Israel in Hebrew (Reshet Bet) is usually "loud and clear" here on 17535 local afternoons. On the 22nd of March 2006 at 1300 UT the Kol Israel was full SIO 555; in fact it had been that at 1100, and 1200 UT too on. jpk (Jukka Kinkamo, Finland, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** JAPAN. NHK and five commercial broadcasters in Tokyo have entered into a joint venture to build a new TV transmission tower in the Japanese capital. The planned 600-metre tower will be designed for terrestrial digital television broadcasting and is to be built in the Sumida-Taito area of the capital, Yomiuri reported. The new tower, dubbed the second Tokyo Tower, is scheduled for completion at the end of 2010 and will be the world's tallest telecommunications tower, exceeding CN Tower in Toronto, currently the tallest in the world at 553 metres. The paper says that a tower twice as tall as the existing Tokyo Tower - 333 metres high - is needed for guaranteed "one-segment" broadcasting, a type of digital terrestrial broadcasting for cell phones and other receivers (AIB Industry Briefing, Technology, distribution - 21 March 2006 via DXLD)

** LIBYA [and non]. Sawt Al-amal -- 21 Marzo. Saludos cordiales, chequeando hoy a Sawt Al-amal se aprecia que ha regresado la emisora de m'sica afro-pop que estaba ausente desde el 9 de Marzo en la que emiti  por los 17690 en la segunda hora de transmisi n de Sawt Al-amal que en su primera hora transmiti  por 17685; el 10 de Marzo comenz  su emisi n en 17670 y termin  en 17675, pero no hubo transmisi n musical, tampoco el 11 de Marzo en donde Sawt Al-amal empez  en 17690, el 12 de Marzo en 17680, en todos esos d as y hasta hoy, Sawt Al-amal se ha podido librar de la emisora musical. No as  de otras se ales de interferencia con mejor o peor resultado; hoy 21 de Marzo, Sawt Al-amal comenz  su emisi n en 17680 sufriendo una se al pulsante muy d bil que a penas a supuesto problema en su primera hora de emisi n, pero una vez ha cambiado a 17685 ha comenzado la emisora musical y Sawt Al-amal ha quedado totalmente anulada (Jos  Miguel Romero, Spain, March 21, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST) see also GABON!

Sawt Al-amal, jammers y  frica N  1, chequeado 22 Marzo.

Saludos cordiales, chequeando hoy a Sawt Al-amal, las emisiones jammer y  frica N  1 v a Gab n, el resultado es el siguiente:

17630,  frica N  1, se escucha a las 1238 en franc s con programa de m'sica pop con una se al pobre, SINPO 25432; posteriormente a las 1304 se aprecia sin emisi n, tan s lo se escucha ruido en esa se al. Sin embargo a las 1315 se restablece la emisi n con mejor se al, SINPO 35333; compruebo la frecuencia de 9580 y no se aprecia emisi n alguna.

17660, Voice of Africa, 1240 en su emisión de música árabe con fuerte señal hasta el cierre a las 1400 con un SINPO 55544.

17670, Sawt Al-amal, 1242-1300, árabe, en su programación habitual con fuerte señal y ausencia de interferencia, SINPO 45544.

17675, Sawt Al-amal, 1300, a pesar de no sufrir interferencia en su primera hora de emisión en la frecuencia de inicio, cambia de frecuencia como es habitual en los últimos días, SINPO 45444; sin embargo a las 1307 se inicia la emisión jammer de música melódica y afro-pop, con SINPO 54544. A partir de ahí se nota de fondo a Sawt Al-amal, prácticamente anulada; pocos minutos después la señal jammer se aprecia con SINPO 55544. Desde ahí hasta las 1400 ya no se escucha a Sawt Al-amal.

Se pueden escuchar unas grabaciones de lo ocurrido en:
<http://valenciadx.multiply.com/music>

Lo curioso es que si se compara la fuerza con que se percibe a África Nf 1 via Gabón y la emisión jammer de música afro-pop; no parecen emitir desde el mismo lugar, no tienen la misma fuerza. La emisora de Gabón nunca se escucha con tanta fuerza como la jammer; esto me desconcierta. ¿Quizás Gabón está utilizando un transmisor mucho más potente para la jammer que para sus propias transmisiones?, ¿porque nunca se escucha a Gabón con tanta fuerza como la jammer aquí en Valencia? Me desconcierta.

Escuchen ustedes si quieren las grabaciones y saquen conclusiones, quizás yo siga equivocado. Atentamente (José Miguel Romero, Spain, March 22, dxldyg via DX LISTENING DIGEST)

The difference could simply be due to different azimuths. No doubt the jammers are aimed squarely at Libya, and maybe ANO itself not (gh)

** MADAGASCAR. Madagascar Update, by Rob Scobey
<http://worldchristian.org/index.pl/latestnews>

He built a tower in Alaska last year for station KNLS. Now Kevin Chambers building a station for Madagascar World Radio --- the name of World Christian Broadcasting's operation in that island nation off the east coast of Africa. WCB's multi-talented and multi-tasking chief engineer has taken on the role of a construction superintendent.

Kevin and his wife Nancy are getting to know the country of Madagascar quite well. He is making his fourth extended visit. Nancy is making her second. According to plan, Nancy and Kevin will remain there until mid-May. The objective is to begin the construction process for the

new facility and gradually turn more of the responsibility over the Malagasy employees.

Security is a major priority and numerous security personnel have been hired. A security plan is in place; for security reasons, we're not publishing the details. We will volunteer that construction of a fence to surround the 86-acre property is underway. Brent Terry of Louisville, KY, is volunteering his time to procure the materials and oversee installation of the fence.

Also headed for Madagascar is a seagoing barge with three containers containing steel for the buildings' frames, steel to reinforce concrete, and drywall. Gravel for the concrete will be obtained locally. And this will provide a small but measurable boost to the local economy as will the hiring of local construction workers. A well has been drilled on the property and the water is tasty and good for human consumption.

An ample supply of electricity is not guaranteed. So diesel generators will supply enough electricity for an American town of 500 people. If the transmitting facility doesn't need all of the power, the surplus can be made available to local residents.

The electricity will power four transmitters and four towers and antennas. The towers are the curtain type you may have seen in photos of the KNLS station in Anchor Point, AK. As is the case with the two transmitters in Alaska -- three of them will use 100,000 watts of power with 16 million watts of effective radiated power. One tower will send a signal to continental Africa and South America. One will cover Europe, including European Russia, and the Middle East. And one will cover India, China, and most of Asia --- especially western Asia. (KNLS blankets eastern Asia). A fourth transmitter, tower, and antenna will be used for local coverage in Madagascar.

The wheels of government in Madagascar, as in other parts of the world, sometimes turn slowly. Permits for construction activities don't always arrive in a timely manner. So if Kevin becomes restless or temporarily finds he has time on his hands, he can watch his favorite TV programs --- sent to him on DVD by WCB studio technician Real Peloquin.

More About Madagascar

In November, 2005, two ships arrived in Madagascar containing tools, equipment, a truck, a backhoe, a bulldozer, and one mile of fence. In mid-January, 2006, another ship embarked from the port of Houston headed to Madagascar carrying generators, tools and fence building materials. Another container will be leaving from Houston in the next

couple of weeks. The water well is now dug and a couple of small buildings have been built. Construction of the mile of fence will begin in March. Kevin and Nancy Chambers have returned to Madagascar to oversee the construction work that has already begun. Brent Terry will also be going soon to construct the fence. A sign has been placed on the property that reads, future home of Madagascar World Voice ñ the name that will be used in Madagascar.

Four antennas will be built on the 84 acres of land given to World Christian by the President of Madagascar. The antennas have been ordered and are now being built! These new digital antennas will send a radio signal comparable to a local sounding signal and will blanket the Middle East, Africa, South America, European Russia, southern and western China and Indonesia ñ some 5 billion people.

Our Arabic staff is being assembled now. The Russian and Chinese websites continue to attract hundreds of interested people every month. The Arabic website will be launched this coming summer. Many more broadcasts can now be heard on each of the three websites and soon Arabic broadcasts will be able to be heard on the Arabic website.

One of our donors is planning a gift of \$500,000. To receive this gift, we must raise \$1.5 million by March 15, 2006. If you have considered helping us build these antennas, this is an excellent time to do something that would enable us to receive this wonderful gift.

This is an unparalleled opportunity to reach this many people with the gospel. I want to ask you to seriously consider helping us raise the funds necessary to cover the world with the gospel. Would you let me come and visit with you, the mission committee at your home church, or with individuals you know that could help us raise the \$7 million that is needed? It is more than a gift to World Christian ñ it is a gift to reach the entire world with the gospel. Please contact me abaker @ worldchristian.org or (615-417-3906). I welcome your questions. Let's talk soon (Andy Baker, Vice President, World Christian Broadcasting, via DXLD)

What's a ``digital antenna``? And a neat trick to use only one tower for each curtain antenna, as the text above leads us to believe. And, which is it, Madagascar World Radio, or Madagascar World Voice? (gh)

** MALAYSIA. 7295, Traxx FM (RTM), Mar 21, 1326-1341, in English; DJs ``Jezza`` (Gerard Vincent Ratnam) and ``Maya`` (Maya Suraya), with their Tuesday ``Jazz Selecta`` program; I was particularly pleased to hear my name mentioned on-air, as they read out my posting to their website, which has just been updated ---
<http://jazzselecta.alldatjazz.com/>

They were very pleased to get feedback from California. (Ron Howard, Monterey, CA, RX340, with T2FD antenna, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** NETHERLANDS. ESQUEMA DE EMISIONES EN ESPAÑOL DE RADIO NEDERLAND WERELDOMROEP DESDE EL 26 DE MARZO AL 28 DE OCTUBRE DEL 2006
Todas las horas UTC (Tiempo Universal)

HORA UTC	AREA	FRECUENCIA
1100-1127	Caribe	B6165
1130-1157	Sudamérica (Noreste)	B6165
1200-1227	Centroamérica	B9715
	Sudamérica (Noroeste)	B9895
2300-2357	Sudamérica (Sur)	F9895
0000-0157	Sudamérica (Sur)	B15315
	Sudam. (Norte), Caribe	F6165
0200-0357	México	B9590
	Centroamérica, Caribe	F6165

Emisores: F= Flevo, Holanda B= Bonaire, Antillas Neerlandesas

Radio Nederland Wereldomroep transmite en español las 24 horas vía satélite e internet <http://www.informarn.nl> (Jaime B. Guena, RN, also via Dino Bloise, dxldyg via DXLD)

** OKLAHOMA. Re OKC pirate on 101.1: I ran into one of the guys when I was working at a club, and his buddies run a record label and he said they are running a 30 watt station around Memorial and 122nd. I warned his buddy that is very illegal, and you don't want another 92.1 incident, even though the programming on 92.1 was very very entertaining (Skyhyped, March 21, Oklahoma board at radio-info.com via DXLD) Those two streets are parallel, a mile apart running E-W across the entire city; so what are the cross streets? (gh, DXLD)

** PAKISTAN. On the 20th of March 2006 at 0800-0830 UT on 15100 kHz Radio Pakistan was loud and clear (SI0 455) in English language despite their usually rather poor modulation. Yours etc. (Jukka Kinkamo, Finland, DX LISTENING DIGEST) Starts at 0730 now: (gh)

RADIO PAKISTAN'S NEW ENGLISH SERVICE FOR PAKISTANIS IN EUROPE HEARD

Pakistan's state broadcaster has launched a new English service for Pakistanis in Western Europe. Radio Pakistan launched the programme on 20 March and it is intended to promote government policies abroad. The broadcast is daily at 0730-0830 gmt on 15100 and 17835 kHz shortwave.

Summary of first programme

BBC Monitoring listened to the first broadcast, but poor reception

meant that some parts of the programme were indistinct:

1. Opening announcement:

"This is Radio Pakistan. Seven-thirty a.m. gmt, that is 1230 p.m. Pakistan standard time. You are tuned into 'Good Morning Pakistan', a presentation from the External Services for our listeners in Western Europe. (? Dear) listeners, it's (?history in the making). Assalamu alaikum, bonjour and good morning to all our listeners in Western Europe."

There followed a partly indistinct frequency announcement. The presenter introduced herself and her producer. "Smiling at me and offering his perfect technical assistance is (?Mohammad Yasin)."

2. Recitation and translation from the Qur'an.

3. Programme preview.

4. Pakistan Today: Commentary on Pakistan-India strategic situation in the wake of Bush visit. (3 minutes)

5. Pop song.

6. Interview with young hero of last year's earthquake. (5 minutes)

7. Pop songs, apparently patriotic.

8. (0800 gmt) Regular Radio Pakistan news bulletin. (10 minutes)

9. Feature on musical entertainer.

10. News commentary, on earthquake reconstruction. (Reception was largely indistinct).

11. Largely indistinct closing announcement as reception faded. Listeners invited to write.

12. National anthem

Source: BBC Monitoring research 20 Mar 06 (via DXLD)

** PERU. 4835.47, Radio Mara00n, 1059-1115 March 21. Noted music before the hour. At 1100, canned ID and promos followed by a program of news. Signal seemed to pick up at 1105 and faded in and out periodically for a few minutes. This was my gray zone period. Initially, the signal was threshold (Chuck Bolland, Clewiston FL, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** PHILIPPINES. RVA A06 RADIO VERITAS ASIA
 SHORTWAVE TRANSMISSION SCHEDULE 26 March to 29 October 2006

PROGRAM SERVICE	TIMEBLOCK (UT)	FREQUENCY (kHz)
Bengali	0030ñ0057	11965
	1400ñ1430	11870
Hindi	0030ñ0057	11710
	1330ñ1400	11870
Hmong	1000ñ1027	11780
Indonesian	2300ñ2327	9505
	2300ñ2327	11820
	1200ñ1227	11795
Kachin	2330ñ2357	9545
	1230ñ1257	15225
Karen	0000ñ0027	11935
	1200ñ1230	15225
Mandarin	2100ñ2257	6105
	1000ñ1157	9730
Burmese	2330ñ2357	9805
	1130ñ1157	15450
Filipino	2300-2327	9720
Filipino	1500ñ1530	15530
Filipino	1530-1600	15530 (Wed, Fri & Sun Extension)
Russian	0130ñ0227	17830
	1500ñ1600	9570
Sinhala	0000ñ0027	11965
	0000ñ0027	9730
	1330ñ1400	9520
Tamil	0030ñ0057	15520
	1400ñ1430	9520
Telugu	0100ñ0127	15530
	1430ñ1457	9520
Urdu	0100ñ0127	15350
	0100ñ0127	17860
	1430ñ1457	11870
Vietnamese	2330ñ2357	9670
	0130ñ0230	15530
	1030ñ1127	11850
	1300ñ1327	11850
Zomi-Chin	0230-0300	11895

Transmitting Station: Palauig, Zambales
 Geographical Location: 119 .50 E; 15 .28 N [sic]
 73 from (Ashik Eqbal Tokon, Rajshahi, Bangladesh, DXLD)
 Are those minutes or decimals of degrees? (gh, DXLD)

** PORTUGAL. In the DXLD bulletin 6-048 dated 20th inst., the suggested <http://www.filatelia.fi/dx/> page leads us, among others, to <http://www.filatelia.fi/dx/photos/renasc1.jpg> - that's the (old) site at Buraca (outskirts of Lisboa) where the local MW tx (1286 kHz 2.5 kW) & the SW tx (6155 kHz 600 watt) were located. Right after the station was occupied by political forces, in 1974/75, this very site was deliberately demolished with charges planted by certain members of the military --- cf. <http://www.rr.pt/historial.asp> and <http://www.rr.pt/historial2.asp>

R. Renascença no longer used SW after that, except for the short lived "adventure" via its Muge site, which still houses the (US made) 100 kW tx and a very small number of rhombics, all idle... and in easy reach of anyone for they're outside the fenced perimeter.

The other local station shown in <http://www.filatelia.fi/dx/> Emissores Associados de Lisboa, was located at Pragal, right on the opposite bank of River Tagus. This was one the private commercial stations whose fate was to be nationalised and to become part of the RDP. In the not so distant past (80s, early 90s) the RDP installed a MW station at Pragal, probably in the old EAL plant.

The other pictures show what was known as R·dio Trans-Europa for quite some time, i.e. the station in charge of the DW and the other relays via Sines, having later changed its name to Pro-Funk GmbH. Neither those 3 x 250 kW Marconi txs nor the fixed curtain antennae are there (probably the log-periodic). Curiously, during my APR'81 visit to the station, at least one of the photos I took at that time, about 10~11 years later, resembles the one tagged as "sines4" in that page. They use 3 rotatable curtain arrays, visible in GoogleEarth by the way, and 3 x 250 kW Thomcast units, which we know are all DRM capable (Carlos Gonçalves, Portugal, March 22, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** SPAIN. R. Liberty antennas demolished: see CATALUNYA

** TAHITI. It has been a while since I tried for Tahiti on 738. I was able to detect a carrier about 15-20 db above the noise floor between 0930 and 1000 UT (22 March). No audio and lots of slop from 740. I think I need at least 30 db and preferably 40 db of signal above the noise floor for a decent shot at audio (Bill Harms, Elkridge, Maryland, R8B K9AY/300 foot longwire Quantum Phaser, IRCA via DXLD)

Bill, I don't check 738 all that often myself, but I'll tell you that at times the carrier has been quite strong here. No audio yet but I'm working on it. KCBS is giving me a bit of trouble but I expect that considering the proximity. 73 (Doug Pifer, Albany, OR, Drake R8B, Kiwa Loop, ibid.)

** U A E. EMI A06 (EMIRATES MEDIA) 26/03/06 to 29/10/06

FREQ	STRT	STOP	CIRAF ZONES	LOC	PWR	AZI	SLW	ANT	DAYS	LANG
6160	2000	2300	41NW	DHA	500	75	15	146	1234567	ARABIC
6185	2200	2300	37N,38NW	DHA	500	285	0	218	1234567	ARABIC
7115	1100	1600	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
7145	2300	2400	27,28	DHA	500	315	0	218	1234567	ARABIC
7160	2300	0030	37N,38NW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
7175	0000	0100	37N,38NW	DHA	500	285	0	218	1234567	ARABIC
7190	0000	0100	37N,38NW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
7220	0800	1000	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
7275	2300	2400	18,27,28	DHA	500	315	0	218	1234567	ARABIC
9515	2100	2400	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
9630	1900	0030	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
9695	2100	2400	41NW	DHA	500	75	15	146	1234567	ARABIC
9695	0500	0630	41NW	DHA	500	75	15	146	1234567	ARABIC
9730	0600	1200	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
9750	1500	1600	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
9840	2300	2400	37N,38NW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
9855	0000	0100	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
11740	0800	1030	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
11995	2200	2300	41NW	DHA	500	75	15	146	1234567	ARABIC
12025	2000	2100	41NW	DHA	500	75	15	146	1234567	ARABIC
13605	0400	0700	41NW	DHA	500	75	15	146	1234567	ARABIC
13650	2200	2400	37N,38NW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
13675	1800	2300	55,58,59	DHA	500	120	30	218	1234567	ARABIC
13700	0500	0900	41NW	DHA	500	75	15	146	1234567	ARABIC
15215	2300	2400	18,27,28	DHA	500	315	0	218	1234567	ARABIC
15220	1000	1030	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
15280	0830	1000	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
15310	0700	1000	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
15405	0630	1200	38NE,39NE,39SW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
17680	0900	1500	37N,38NW	DHA	500	285	0	218	1234567	ARABIC
17680	2000	2400	37N,38NW	DHA	250	285	0	218	1234567	ARABIC
17730	0000	0100	37N,38NW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
17760	1200	1700	37N,38NW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
17760	2200	2400	37N,38NW	DHA	500	300	0	146	1234567	ARABIC
17785	1200	1400	37N,38NW	DHA	500	285	0	218	1234567	ARABIC
17815	1100	1500	37N,38NW	DHA	500	285	0	218	1234567	ARABIC
17845	1800	0100	44,45	DHA	500	60	-30	218	1234567	ARABIC
21630	0200	0600	55,58,59	DHA	500	120	30	218	1234567	ARABIC
21630	0600	0800	18,27,28	DHA	500	315	0	218	1234567	ARABIC
21735	0300	0700	41NW	DHA	500	75	15	146	1234567	ARABIC
21735	0200	0700	44,45	DHA	500	60	-30	218	1234567	ARABIC
21735	0700	1030	37N,38NW	DHA	500	285	0	218	1234567	ARABIC
21735	1100	1600	37N,38NW	DHA	500	285	0	218	1234567	ARABIC

Note: Transmissions may be delayed by a month due to maintenance
(via Alokesh Gupta, New Delhi, India, March 20, dxldyg via DXLD)

I believe these have been off the air for many months, altho the
relays of foreign clients have continued from this site. Not to be
confused with UAE Radio, Dubai, different site, which has also been
off the SW air. Note 17680 which if activated will collide with CVC La
Voz and the Libyan mess (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

"Transmissions may be delayed by a month due to maintenance" -- what
does this mean? Is Emirates Media really planning to put its own
programming on shortwave again? Similar registrations were filed for
A05 and B05 as well, but I think nothing made it ever on air so far.
Even assuming serious plans to restore the service:

At a first glance there appears to be a lot of wood in these
registrations. Just to pick out 2300-2400 towards 315 degrees as an
example: Simultaneously on 7145, 7275 and 15215 while transmissions
with other beam headings are on air as well? Actual use of a single
one of these frequencies would be probably a more realistic scenario
(Kai Ludwig, Germany, March 21, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U A E. Glenn, I noticed there is a discrepancy for the AWR
broadcast via United Arab Emirates in English for A06 at 1200-1230. VT
Merlin has 15140 and the AWR schedule has 15365 both schedules from
Alokesh Gupta. (Daniel Sampson, Prime Time Shortwave, DX LISTENING
DIGEST)

Probably not the only one if everything be cross-checked (gh, DXLD)

** U K. Re 6-048, BBC Japan: BBC Japan is the Japanese version of BBC
World. Its website (in Japanese, obviously) is
<http://www.bbcworld-japan.com/>

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

BBC Japan

Type Satellite

Availability Japan

Founder BBC Worldwide

Owner BBC

Launch date December 1, 2004

BBC Japan is a television channel from the BBC available via satellite
in Japan. Similar in format to BBC Prime, which now broadcasts a
service in other Asian countries, BBC Japan shows such BBC programmes
as Blackadder and Fawlty Towers, with many of them subtitled in
Japanese. The channel launched on December 1, 2004 and is currently

available over Sky PerfecTV!110 and 4th MEDIA (via Andy Sennitt, Media Network blog via DXLD) But BBC below says it only launched in Dec 2005, not 2004! (gh, DXLD)

BBC Japan is to close down at the end of April because its Japanese distributor no longer has the financial backing to support the channel. The TV channel launched in December 2005 and features subtitled BBC shows including My Family and EastEnders.

"We are hoping to announce shortly how BBC Japan's loyal customers will be able to receive the channel in future," said BBC Worldwide's Darren Childs.

Distributor JMC will be unable to transmit the channel after 30 April.

Sorry

BBC Worldwide said it had not been consulted on the decision and that the situation was out of its control. JMC also told the BBC that the company's shareholders would not be providing any further financial support in the future.

"We extend our sincere apologies to subscribers of the channel who have been inconvenienced by the decision of JMC," said Mr Childs, Managing Director of Global Channels at BBC Worldwide.

The commercial arm of the BBC offers several other TV channels including international entertainment channel BBC Prime, BBC America and BBC Canada. Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/entertainment/4830518.stm>

Published: 2006/03/21 17:47:09 GMT © BBC MMVI (via Dan Say, BC, DXLD)

**** U S A. VOICE OF AMERICA'S DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS**

Tuesday, March 21, 2006 by Stephen Johnson

<http://www.speroforum.com/site/article.asp?idCategory=33&idsub=128&id=2954>

The Middle East is not the only source of ill-will toward America and U.S. interests, but that region now receives the bulk of U.S. funding for foreign broadcasting while operations elsewhere, such as in Latin America, languish.

Though understandable, this approach may be counterproductive. Because public diplomacy efforts such as international broadcasting take years and decades to do their work, shifting massive resources to current hotspots may net little in the end. America needs a more balanced long-term strategy for its foreign broadcasting, and its overseers need to use greater creativity to spread American culture and ideas successfully.

False Savings

Every so often, shortsightedness causes lawmakers, bureaucrats, and politicians to act pennywise and pound foolish. Myopia was at play during the 1990s when the U.S. Congress slashed public diplomacy and foreign broadcasting budgets in the belief that the end of the Cold War meant peace for the foreseeable future.

More recently, poor vision has caused policymakers to regard the 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington as proof that most threats now come from the Middle East. In a rush to influence Middle Eastern public opinion in a hurry, they gutted the global Voice of America (VOA) radio and TV networks to create new regional broadcasting services.

However, research shows that changing deep-seated perceptions takes time and targeting through multiple channels such as supplying textbooks, supporting libraries, and sponsoring academic exchanges. Sadly, face-to-face public diplomacy efforts remain disorganized at the U.S. Department of State.

Leaving that question aside, Congress has restored most of the broadcasting budget that it cut during the 1990s. The U.S. Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), which supervises all foreign radio and TV efforts including VOA and surrogate outlets like Radio Free Europe, will have \$671 million at its disposal for 2007 --- a \$231 million increase over 2001.

The bad news is that VOA services in Portuguese, Central and Eastern European languages, Arabic, and (global) English have been reduced or eliminated. Ironically, as VOA managers were shifting their own Middle Eastern programming from shortwave radio to the more popular FM band and breaking into satellite TV distribution, the BBG decided to roll out brand new services --- the Middle Eastern Radio Network, Radio Sawa, Al-Hurra TV, and Radio Farda to Iran --- at greater cost.

According to BBG Chairman Kenneth Tomlinson, federal civil-service regulations and self-serving union rules would have blocked VOA's plans. No doubt there is truth in this, but Congress should have modernized VOA's bureaucratic personnel structure long ago. The BBG should have asked the unions to help develop a more flexible hiring and contracting policies. VOA shouldn't exist to provide every employee with a 30-year career and a pension.

Despite the cuts, VOA isn't totally down and out. Next year, it gets a 5.3 percent funding raise to help it beam TV to Iran and add more programming in Dari and Pashto languages for Afghanistan. Meanwhile,

the new Middle Eastern Broadcasting Network will get a 13-percent boost to expand Al-Hurra-TV programming from 16 to 24 hours a day and add more newscasts to Radio Sawa, all in the Middle East.

Long-Term Slippage

In other parts of the world, America's image has declined since it liberated Iraq. In most capitals, China polls more favorably than the United States. Meanwhile, America's ratings are slipping in its own hemisphere where it relies on peaceful neighbors for security. According to a comprehensive survey across 18 countries, favorable perceptions of the United States have dropped 8 percentage points over five years. An overwhelming majority of respondents in the capitals of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay think the U.S. is ``imperialist.``

Latin America and the Caribbean are home to a growing population of 550 million people, half of whom live beneath the poverty line. In a shift toward populism, presidents in Venezuela, Bolivia, and Argentina are now telling citizens that their misery is a result of America's wealth. Elections this year could bring similar leaders to power in more countries.

VOA's 4 hours of radio and a little over an hour of television per day hardly combat such misperceptions. VOA has no programming in the Quechua or Aymara languages to appeal to South America's large indigenous populations that live where populism is surging. Even the BBG's robust TV/Radio Marti service to Cuba misses golden opportunities to reach large audiences. It recently opted not to cover Cuba's participation in the March 2006 World Baseball Classic.

Besides increasing distribution of existing services to key regions, the BBG should be more creative. National Public Radio shows like ``Car Talk`` and ``Fresh Air`` will soon replace VOA news on Armed Forces Radio in Berlin. Instead of paying for expensive in-house production, VOA English service could license such programs to bring slices of American life to listeners in countries like South Korea, Mongolia, Chile, Uruguay, and Iraqi Kurdistan where learning English and listening to it on the radio are gaining popularity.

Hard as it may be to do, the Bush Administration, Congress, and the Broadcasting Board of Governors should look beyond what seem like immediate needs. Tomorrow's security nightmares are already percolating in hotspots beyond the Middle East. Because influencing perceptions is a lengthy process, all of America's public diplomacy machinery should be put in order and employed to build friendships where possible and defuse threats before they cost lives.

Stephen Johnson is Senior Policy Analyst in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies at The Heritage Foundation.
(via Artie Bigley, DXLD)

same: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/wm1019.cfm>
(via Mike Cooper, DXLD)

** U S A. Voice of America (VOA) is very difficult to hear in the evenings here in Northern Europe on shortwaves but VOA East Asia News Now is usually "loud and clear" on 11705 kHz local afternoons here. On the 22nd of March 2006 VOA East Asia News Now was on air at 1300 UT on 11705 kHz (SI0 444). Yours etc (Jukka Kinkamo, Finland, DX LISTENING DIGEST) Well, not for long, as you will see below, only 9645 and 9760 will remain in A-06 at this hour; presumably Thailand and Philippines, respectively (gh, DXLD)

** U S A. VOA Broadcast Frequency Schedules
Effective through 29 October 2006, Schedule effective 26 March 2006

Notes: All times and dates are Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), same as Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Frequencies are in kiloHertz (kHz). 1 MegaHertz (MHz) is equal to 1000 kHz. Conversion to meter bands: Meters=300000/frequency in kHz. e.g.: 17705 kHz --> 16.9 meters

Abbreviations: All programs/frequencies are on daily unless noted otherwise.

- & - Monday only
- * - Monday through Friday
- = - Monday through Saturday
- < - Tuesday through Friday
- / - Tuesday and Friday only
- # - Tuesday through Saturday
- % - Tuesday through Sunday
- ~ - Thursday only
-] - Thursday through Saturday
- > - Friday and Saturday
- @ - Saturday only
- \$ - Saturday and Sunday
- " - Sunday only
- + - Sunday and Monday
- ^ - Sunday through Thursday
- ! - Sunday through Friday

Afan Oromo
1730-1800 UTC* 9875 11500 11675 11905 13870

Albanian

0500-0530 UTC 1215 11805
1600-1630 UTC 13740
1830-1900 UTC 1458 9840

Amharic
1800-1900 UTC 9875 11500 11675 11905 13870

Azerbaijani
1730-1800 UTC 7125 7170 13725

Bangla
0130-0200 UTC 11735 15205
1600-1700 UTC 1575 7430 11835

Bosnian
2130-2200 UTC* 792

Burmese
1130-1200 UTC 1575 11850 15215
1430-1500 UTC 1575 5955 12015
2330-2400 UTC 6185 9505

Cantonese
1300-1500 UTC 1170 7115 9355

Chinese
0000-0200 UTC 9545 11830 11925 15150 15385 17765
0200-0300 UTC 9545 11830 11925 15385 17765
0700-0900 UTC 13610 13740 15250 17780 17855 21540 21705
0900-1000 UTC 11825 11965 13610 13740 15250 15665 17780 17855
1000-1100 UTC 9575 11825 11965 12040 13610 15250 15665 17855
1100-1200 UTC 1170 6110 9575 11785 11825 11965 11990 12040
1200-1230 UTC 6110 9845 11785 11825 11965 11990 12040
1230-1300 UTC 6110 9845 11785 11805 11825 11965 12040
1300-1400 UTC 6110 9845 11785 11805 11965 11990 12040
1400-1500 UTC 6110 9845 11805 11965 11990 12040
2200-2300 UTC 7190 7200 9510 9845 11925 13775

Creole
1130-1200 UTC* 11890 11925 15390
1630-1700 UTC 15390 17565
2100-2130 UTC 11895 13725 21555

Croatian
0430-0500 UTC 756 792 1458 5965
1830-1900 UTC 7175 15180

Dari

0130-0230 UTC	1296	12140
1500-1530 UTC	1296	12140
1630-1730 UTC	1296	12140
1800-1830 UTC	1296	12140
1930-2030 UTC	1296	7555

English to Europe, Middle East and North Africa

1100-1200 UTC	15205
1500-1700 UTC	15195 15445
2200-2230 UTC	1593

English to Africa

0300-0330 UTC	909	1530	4930	6080	7340	7405	9885	12080	15580
0330-0400 UTC	909	1530	4930	6080	7405	9885	12080	15580	
0400-0430 UTC	909	1530	4930	4960	6080	7405	9575	9885	11835
		12080	15580						
0430-0500 UTC	909	4930	4960	6080	7405	9575	11835	12080	15580
0500-0600 UTC	909	4930	6080	6180	7405	12080	15580		
0600-0700 UTC	909	1530	6080	6180	7405	12080	15580		
1500-1600 UTC	7405	13795	15580	17895					
1600-1700 UTC	909	1530	4930	7405	15410	15580			
1700-1800 UTC	7405	15410	15580						
1800-1830 UTC	7405	11975	15410	15580	17895				
1800-1830 UTC\$	909	4930							
1830-1900 UTC	909	4930	7405	11975	15410	15580	17895		
1900-2000 UTC	909	4930	4940	7405	11975	15410	15445	15580	17895
2000-2030 UTC	909	1530	4930	4940	7405	11975	15410	15445	15580
2030-2100 UTC	909	1530	4930	7405	11975	15410	15445	15580	
2030-2100 UTC\$	4940								
2100-2200 UTC	909	1530	4930	11975	15445	15580			

English to Far East Asia, South Asia and Oceania

0000-0030 UTC	1575	7215	15290	17820
0100-0200 UTC	9885	11705	11725	
1100-1130 UTC\$	1575			
1200-1230 UTC	1170	6160	9645	9760 11750
1230-1300 UTC	6160	9645	9760	11750
1300-1400 UTC	9645	9760		
1400-1500 UTC	7125	9760	15185	
1500-1600 UTC	7125	12150	13735	15105
1600-1700 UTC*	1170	6160	7125	9760
2200-2400 UTC	7215	15185	15290	17740
2230-2400 UTC>	1575			

English to Afghanistan

0000-0030 UTC	1296	7555
2030-2400 UTC	1296	7555

English-Special

0000-0030	UTC	1593								
0030-0100	UTC	1575	1593	9715	9780	15185	15205	15290	15560	17740
		17820								
0130-0200	UTC#	7405	13740							
1500-1530	UTC	6160	9590	9760	12040	15550				
1500-1530	UTC\$	1575								
1530-1600	UTC	1575	6160	9590	9760	12040	15550			
1600-1700	UTC	12080	13600	17895						
1900-2000	UTC	6040	9670							
2230-2330	UTC	1593	9570	13755	15145					
2330-2400	UTC	1593	7260	9570	13725	13755	15145			

French

0530-0600	UTC*	1530	4960	6035	6095	9885	13710			
0600-0630	UTC*	4960	6035	6095	9885	13710				
1830-2000	UTC	1530	9815	9830	12080	15730	17785			
2000-2030	UTC	9815	9830	11720	12080	15730				
2030-2100	UTC\$	9815	9830	11720	12080	15730				
2100-2130	UTC*	9815	9830	12035	12080					

Georgian

1530-1600	UTC	11805	15475							
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Hausa

0430-0500	UTC*	9600	11680							
0500-0530	UTC	1530	4960	6035	6095					
1500-1530	UTC	9710	11905	13745						
1800-1830	UTC\$	1530	4940	9565	11955	12080	17785			
2030-2100	UTC*	4940	9815	9830	11720	12080	15730			

Hindi

0030-0100	UTC	7430	11805							
1600-1700	UTC	7260	9315							

Indonesian

0000-0030	UTC	9535	11805	13705						
1100-1300	UTC	9700	9890	12010						
1400-1500	UTC]	13620	15105							
2200-2400	UTC	7225	9535	11805						

Khmer

1330-1430	UTC	1575	5955	7155						
2200-2230	UTC	1575	6060	7130	13725					

Kinyarwanda/Kirunda

0330-0430	UTC	6095	7340	13725						
1600-1630	UTC@	11925	15430	17725						

Korean

1300-1400	UTC	648	7215	7235	11740
1400-1500	UTC	7215	7235	11740	
2000-2030	UTC	6060	7125	9510	
2030-2100	UTC	6060	7125	9510	15470

Kurdish

0400-0500	UTC	7115	9730	11890	
1300-1400	UTC	1593	9825	15130	15390
1600-1700	UTC	9825	15545	17745	
1800-1900	UTC	7205	11520	15545	
1900-2000	UTC	1593			

Lao

1230-1300	UTC	1575	9510	11930	
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Pashto

0030-0130	UTC	1296	12140		
1430-1500	UTC	1296	12140		
1530-1630	UTC	1296	12140		
1730-1800	UTC	1296	12140		
1830-1930	UTC	1296	7555		

Persian

0200-0300	UTC	9635	11810	17855	
1600-1700	UTC	1593	6040	9700	11520
1700-1800	UTC	1593	6040	9770	11740
1800-1900	UTC	648	1593	6040	9770 11740

Portuguese

0430-0500	UTC	1530	6095	7340	
1700-1730	UTC	1530	9565	12080	
1730-1800	UTC	1530	9565	9815	12080 15730
1800-1830	UTC*	1530	9565	9815	17785

Russian

1300-1400	UTC	11725	15120	15205	17730
1700-1900	UTC	6105	7220	9520	11805

Serbian

0530-0545	UTC	1458	11805		
1930-2000	UTC	792	9705		
2100-2130	UTC*	756	7210		

Shona/Ndebele/English to Zimbabwe

1700-1800	UTC*	909	4930	11975	17895
1800-1830	UTC*	909	4930	12110	15730

Spanish

0100-0200 UTC 9560 9885 11815
1100-1230 UTC 7370 9535 13790

Swahili

1630-1700 UTC 9815 13670 15730
1700-1730 UTC* 9815 13670 15730

Tibetan

0000-0100 UTC 7255 9855 11690
0400-0600 UTC 15265 15490 17685
1400-1500 UTC 6030 11520 11975

Tigrigna

1900-1930 UTC* 9875 11500 11675 11905 13870

Turkish

0330-0400 UTC* 792 7205
1030-1100 UTC* 15205 17670
1800-1900 UTC 792 11865 15235

Ukrainian

0400-0430 UTC* 7265 9710
2000-2015 UTC 7230 11840
2015-2030 UTC* 7230 11840

Urdu

0000-0100 UTC 972
0100-0200 UTC 972 7145 11805
1400-1500 UTC 972 9510 15530
1500-1700 UTC 972
1700-1800 UTC 972 9315 9585
1800-2400 UTC 972

Uzbek

1500-1530 UTC 801 11520 11780 15390 17685

Vietnamese

1300-1330 UTC 1575 5955 9720
1500-1600 UTC 1170 5955 6120 9780
2230-2330 UTC 6060 13725

(VOA via DXLD) I suspect all the times are in UTC (gh)

Also, some changes in English programming: TALK TO AMERICA moves to 14-15 UT M-F; BORDER CROSSINGS 15-16 UT M-F. MUSIC TIME IN AFRICA, Sun & Sat 20-21 (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. SCANDAL SHAKES PUBLIC RADIO --- MEN KEPT FREEBIES MEANT FOR STATION, PROSECUTORS ALLEGE --- BY MARYANNE GEORGE and JOHN SMYNTEK, FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS, March 17, 2006

The sedate, urbane world of public broadcasting was rattled Thursday as prosecutors charged three former employees of Michigan Public Media with illegally accepting golf club memberships, Persian rugs, airline tickets and massages in exchange for on-air considerations at the state's top public radio station.

Each of the men -- current WDET-FM general manager Michael Coleman, Jeremy Nordquist and Justin Ebright -- was charged by Washtenaw County prosecutors in Ann Arbor with embezzlement of under \$20,000 while working at Michigan Public Media-controlled WUOM-FM (91.7). Each could face up to five years in prison if convicted.

An internal audit also found sloppy recordkeeping, excessive bonuses and expense-account fraud that totaled more than \$50,000 from July 2001 to December 2005, said Timothy Slottow, University of Michigan's chief financial officer. U-M owns and runs Michigan Public Media.

WDET (101.9) and WUOM are the major public radio stations in Michigan, and public radio has long had a trustworthy image of being above the kind of influence-peddling that has occasionally tarnished commercial radio.

The charges shocked listeners of the National Public Radio affiliates. "This is a sad revelation for Detroit, which has functioned as Michigan's cultural engine for so long," said public radio listener Willie Northway of Ann Arbor. "The talk and news offered by Michigan Radio is an invaluable service to the community."

Coleman, who left Michigan Public Media as deputy director last year to be general manager at WDET and who has made several controversial programming changes in his new job, remains in his position, said Louis Lessem, vice president and general counsel for Wayne State University, which owns the station.

"We know very little about the charge, other than that it has been made," said Lessem, adding that Coleman is not on administrative leave.

Coleman, 40, of Ypsilanti did not return calls for comment Thursday. His lawyer, Gregory Dodd of Ypsilanti, could not be reached Thursday evening.

WDET listeners who have pilloried Coleman for dumping music programming for talk and news blasted him Thursday after hearing the

news.

"While I don't wish ill will on anyone, for some reason this does not surprise me," said Dean Dauphinais of Grosse Pointe.

Slottow said listener donations to WUOM, which last year put about \$2.2 million into the radio station's \$5.5-million overall budget, were not part of the alleged embezzlement.

"Although we didn't discover these problems as quickly as we would have if stronger operational and oversight controls were in place, we did discover them and are taking immediate corrective action," he said.

In-kind donations are common for public broadcasting but typically items donated are then sold to fund the stations.

The allegations came to light after Donovan Reynolds, the former director of Michigan Public Media, alerted U-M officials about business practices at WUOM that concerned him. He resigned March 1, saying that although he was not implicated, the improprieties occurred under his watch.

Recent Arbitron ratings show WUOM is the most popular radio station in Ann Arbor. The station raised more than \$900,000 during its fall fund-raiser. Its spring fund-raiser is set to begin March 31.

Nordquist, 28, of Saline and Ebright, 35, of Whitmore Lake also each face a charge of conspiracy to embezzle under \$20,000, which carries a maximum 5-year prison term upon conviction. Nordquist was an account executive for Michigan Public Media who left the station Jan. 25. Ebright was development director for Michigan Radio, which is part of Michigan Public Media. He left in November.

Ebright's lawyer, Dan Geherin of Ann Arbor, said the central question is whether his client broke the law by accepting any of the items. Nordquist's attorney, Tom Moors of Ypsilanti, said his client maintains his innocence.

All three men were released Thursday morning on \$10,000 personal bond each.

News spread quickly Thursday among listeners of Wayne State University's Detroit Public Radio, WDET-FM (101.9) that general manager Michael Coleman, who has made many controversial changes at the station, had been accused of illegally accepting items from advertisers while with his previous employer, Ann Arbor-based Michigan Public Media.

What U-M uncovered about WUOM

An internal University of Michigan audit of WUOM-FM (91.7) has found sloppy recordkeeping, excessive bonuses and expense account fraud that totaled more than \$50,000, according to Timothy Slottow, U-M's chief financial officer.

Slottow detailed the findings at a news conference Thursday. Among the preliminary findings:

Insufficient documentation of contributions leading to on-air acknowledgements. In cases of in-kind trade, there were instances where a business rationale for the transaction was not provided and some of the trade was not used to benefit the station.

Expense accounts of some employees showed evidence of double-billing and improper reimbursement.

An external auditor did not uncover the problems because there was no detailed record of transactions that would have disclosed them, Slottow said. He said the problems were uncovered in a preliminary audit that began in November and focused on the period from July 1, 2001, to Dec. 31, 2005. Most of the problems occurred over the last two years, he said.

What's next in the case?

In court: Michael Coleman's preliminary examination is set for March 29 in Ann Arbor's 14th District Court. Jeremy Nordquist and Justin Ebright are to appear April 12 for preliminary exams in the same courthouse.

For Michigan Public Media: The second phase of the University of Michigan audit is nearly done. All the internal-control policies, accounting practices and other policies are being reviewed by outside consultants from the Southfield-based auditing firm Plante & Moran. The review is to address conflicts of interest and gifts, bonuses and recordkeeping. Copyright © 2006 Detroit Free Press Inc.

"This strikes me as incredibly ironic."

--Mike Novak, a media attorney who represented ex-WDET host Martin Bandyke, whom the station accused of violating policies by keeping CDs and free tickets before parting ways.

"So what now? A new manager could mean business as usual. ... But then, the optimist in me holds a glimmer of hope; could this mean Martin Bandyke, John Penney, Judy Adams and all the great music

actually may come back to WDET?" --Lori Bender, White Lake Township

"I would certainly hope the charges ... prove not to be the case. But" Coleman's "professionalism in terms of the direction he sought for WDET was the right move at the right time."

--Ed Christian, of Grosse Pointe Farms-based Saga Communications and a Wayne State University supporter.

"He took away something that many in the community ... valued a great deal: WDET's unique eclectic variety of music programming. So I suppose in light of that act, which to me is quite selfish, it wouldn't be altogether surprising that he'd be capable of embezzling. ... My hope is that if he's forced to leave WDET, the music variety will come back."

--Therese Nielsen, Ann Arbor

"It has never been my policy to cheer for other people's misfortunes but ... Oh yeah!!! And I hope this means the return of the great Martin Bandyke, who has been missed by all!"

--Donald M. Lugers, Windsor, Ontario

"I hope someone is seriously kicking themselves ... for bringing Coleman in."

--Nicole Moore, Royal Oak

"I was a longtime supporter/volunteer and diehard fan of WDET. I had such passion for my station. When Michael Coleman came to my 'DET and cleaned house, I was appalled and his comments on why he did this were completely ludicrous to me! I pulled all support from the station after he cut daytime music programming. I even ripped off my WDET sticker on my car! ... Shocked. ... and a little joyful. Is that wrong?"

--Shelli Gutholm, Oxford (all via Brock Whaley, DXLD)

** U S A. Oakland, CA is still the site of ``KRKD`` 103.3. It's a station that plays classic jazz in stereo plus some New Orleans jazz - -- when it is on, that is. The station is on only Fridays 8:15 pm to midnight, Sundays 2-6 pm [PT = UT -8 now, UT - 7 from April 2]. It operates a 67 kHz SCS with big bands` music with 5 kHz audio response, and light jazz with CD automation at 92 kHz with 10 kHz audio response. ``It's easier to modulate a higher fidelity signal at 92 kHz, which is farther on the spectrum from the main carrier,`` reports operator D.T., 58, who has another job. The station has been on the air with its two SCSes since at least 1997. Its effective radiated power is about 250 w circular (Bruce Elving, March FMedia! via DXLD) Just to be clear: this is a pirate, with subcarriers too (gh, DXLD)

** U S A. Miami AM Sold For \$6 Million --- Tuesday, March 21, 2006

WOCN (Union Radio)/Miami has been sold by Minority Broadcasters, headed by Richard and Pablo Vega, to Dallas-based Independence Media for \$6 million. WOCN currently airs a mix of brokered talk and religious programs targeting immigrants from Latin America and Haiti. (Radio and Records Via Brock Whaley, DXLD) \$6,000.00 a watt, on a very crowded 1450 (Brock, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. After 82 years standing atop Mount Oread, Kansas University's radio tower is coming down. Slammed by debris in last week's storm, the tower that broadcast the university's first radio station has been deemed too old to try to fix and keep standing. With picture:
http://www2.1jworld.com/news/2006/mar/22/tower_ku_way_down/?city_local73, (via Ken Kopp <http://www.qsl.net/kk0hf/dxldyg> via DXLD)

** VENEZUELA. LA SIP CONDEN" LA VIOLACI" N DE ART" CULOS RELACIONADOS CON LA LIBERTAD DE EXPRESI" N EN VENEZUELA.

La Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa (SIP) en su reuni" n celebrada en Ecuador resolvi" n condenar la violaci" n de los art" culos de la Constituci" n relacionados con la libertad de expresi" n e informaci" n en Venezuela por parte de su gobierno.

La SIP rechaz" n, de igual manera, las acciones intimidatorias contra los medios de comunicaci" n independientes y decidi" n enviar a Venezuela una misi" n que eval" e la situaci" n.

La Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa se" al" n en su documento final que hay limitaciones a la libertad de expresi" n en Venezuela promovidas desde el gobierno a trav" s de leyes y destac" n que un juez orden" n la censura previa mediante un fallo.

De igual manera, precis" n que en Venezuela se han confiscado espacios en el espectro radioel" ctrico que, junto a las cadenas presidenciales, son el inicio de una escalada de penalidades que pueden llegar hasta el cierre de medios.

La SIP indic" n que numerosos periodistas han sufrido lesiones y se ha cortado la libertad de expresi" n cuando, de acuerdo a la Declaraci" n de Chapultepec, se registran asesinatos, terrorismo, intimidaci" n, prisi" n injusta e impunidad. JMS Globovisi" n, Publicado el 20-03-2006. (v" a Jorge Garc" a Rangel, Venezuela, Noticias DX via DXLD)

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UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIALS

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To: Worldwide ministry of the World of Radio, DXers' Heaven  
Dear Pastor, Always glad to help spread the word. Hope all is fine  
(Jerry Kiefer, Roswell, NM, with a PayPal contribution)

BTW, PayPal donors, please note that I am not set up to accept credit card payments, and please use ONLY this address for that purpose:  
woradio at yahoo.com (gh)

RADIO EQUIPMENT FORUM  
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BLAW-KNOX TOWERS contd.

There is an internet-based fascination with Blaw-Knox towers that I cannot understand. Blaw-Knox was a popular tower manufacturer from the 1930's into the 1950's. Part of the reason for their popularity was that RCA sold their products, and RCA was the dealer for many broadcast installations during that time.

Most of their towers were self-supporting, with a fairly wide base and a taper to a much smaller top section. Many of these towers were used as quarter-wave or shorter radiators, and the larger cross-section at the bottom was felt to be appropriate to the current distribution on the tower. However, when a tapered tower is used as a half-wavelength (or similar) antenna, some consideration may have to be given for the distortion in the current distribution when calculating radiation at vertical angles above horizontal.

Blaw-Knox made a relatively small number of "guyed cantilever" towers which were small at the bottom and top, and wide in the center. Guy wires were attached in the central area for mechanical stability. Such an arrangement was felt to be more appropriate for a half wavelength tower. Some towers of this design remain in use, and certain people on the Internet seem to think they are the only towers that Blaw-Knox ever built.

The question of current distribution was once a hotly-discussed subject, as many MW stations on clear channels would attempt to maximize their ground-wave coverage area for the daytime, and their non-fading zones at night. Here in the U.S., the present congestion of the AM band has rendered these concerns much less important, as coverage is generally now limited more by interference from other stations, especially at night.

Back in the 1930's, many believed that all of the guy wires involved with a multi-tower array made up of uniform cross-section towers would present a problem in establishing and maintaining pattern of the

array. Experience has proven otherwise, but a lot of self-supporting towers were sold as a result.

The Blaw-Knox self-supporting towers were quite well made. There is an AM station near me that has four of the standard taper towers, 115 meters tall, and now 67 years old. They are in excellent condition. Self-supporters do have two major drawbacks: They are very expensive to paint, because of the large surface area. They also have a nasty failure mode in hurricanes, as there are no guy wires to damp the oscillation of the upper section of the tower if the wind comes in regular gusts (John Andrews, LW messageboard via DXLD)

DIGITAL BROADCASTING  
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FUTURE OF AM RADIO DOWN THE ROAD [continued]

If they could get wireless streaming to work in vehicles, they will have it made. Maybe in time, the MW band will clear up and few broadcasters will be using it and DX will be there like it once was. But of course, who knows what noise sources we might have in the future to mess things up too. 73, (Patrick Martin, IRCA via DXLD)

Pat, Speaking of noise, someone in the broadcast mailing list noted that IBOC is blocked out by ignition of vehicles near his car when driving in normal traffic. hmmmmmmmm. Why bother? (Bill Harms, ibid.)

Goodie, a car that interferes with IBOC sidebands! Where do I buy one? 73 de (Charlie Taylor, NC, ibid.)

Craig makes lots of good points. One thing however regarding wireless internet and streaming audio as they are implemented is the bandwidth problem. Every person who listens to a stream is served up their own individual feed. The higher the audio quality the higher the bandwidth and corresponding cost. The more listeners you have the more it will cost you. The only way that Craig's scenario will work is when a method of distribution will be developed letting an extremely large amount of users share a single stream. That is the present advantage of over-the-air radio. You can have one listener or 1 million listeners and the bandwidth will stay the same (Dave Marthouse, ibid.)

Multicasting (one stream for many listeners) is supported by most routers these days. However, it won't solve the problem. If 1000 users want 1000 different streams, there's nothing to be gained by multicasting. This is what makes a problem for wireless "last mile" technologies. Regardless of whether it is cell phone, WiFi or WiMax based, there's a finite bandwidth to be shared between many users. Individual streams then chew up that bandwidth. WiFi won't be the

answer as the limited range (only a few hundred feet or less when obstructions are present) means you'd have a real nightmare to cover an entire city and a financial problem to connect all of them to the Internet. WiMax has the coverage (more or less 20 mile diameter cells) but there can be millions of people and lots of businesses inside that cell. There are sure to be bandwidth issues. Fiber To The Home (still not close to reality for the masses) will solve the problem sometime, somewhere over the rainbow (Chuck Hutton, *ibid.*)

My previous remarks, as usual, have been censored. As with stamps in the original 'Charade', once you see it, you know it. Patterns tell the tale.

CabalBOK doesn't want part of the spectrum. They want all of it. How to get it? Jam it.

Ask, what in essence does IBOC do? It jams. We hear of pitifully limited useable range and insensitive receivers jammed by internal noise as cheerBLOKers blat vapid excuses.

What does iBLOK do? It jams. It jams all but those stations owned by a small cadre of monopolycasters. They don't care if frustrated listeners tune out. By way of attrition they believe they'll be the 'company store' of broadcasting. First, they fool themselves.

What do they fear? Reflexive censorship and congenital animadversion to the truth reveals they fear those whom they jam - classic projection. Predators do to others that which they most dread. First, they stifle, ever fearful of consequences inevitable.

They fear truth.

CabalHD cynically placates listeners and engineers with excuses and solicits their fixes for HD in hope of buying time to more fully sink their claws into public spectrum.

What is crooked cannot be made straight. That which stinks will never be called a rose. =Z.= (Paul Vincent Zecchino, Manacutthebullshale Key, FL, BT, IRCA via DXLD)

The broadcast industry will lose listeners even IF they adopt IBOC on the AM. And they are losing listeners anyway for other reasons. They will not regain the listeners with IBOC. IBOC is being leapfrogged anyway by other broadcast means. In the end, IBOC on AM is pouring money down a rat hole. The most reasonable solution would be to move to another separate band. Maybe they need to re-visit the whole issue (Bill Harms, IRCA via DXLD)

The big thing with at least FM IBOC, is you can have several audio sources within your carrier. So, a station that has one signal on FM now, can have 4 or 5. So they look at it as "more money". In this day, it all comes down to how much extra money can I make? If no money is involved, then it goes away quickly. Ibiqity sold the broadcasters on this idea back in the 90s. IBOC will save radio and you will have more stations and you will have extra goodies like interactive things. If IBOC does not make extra money, then it will go bye bye. I am betting it will go the way of Quad.

We may have an advantage here on the coast, but I am sure if IBOC goes nationwide, then we still will have to deal with tons of additional noise anyway. There will be enough of it from stations close in anyway. I dread the thought of stations like KNBR and KGO to go IBOC. They are HUGE powerhouses here. But time will tell.

It all comes down to money. That is all. The broadcasters were sold on this by Ibiqity and they have fallen for it, hook, line, and sinker. More audio tracks, better quality, and of course the Buzz word "Digital". It has to be better if it is digital...:) But the bottom line has not changed. IBOC has to make money for it to survive. Millions of people have to go out and lay down their money for the radios. I still don't see it.

IBOC is very fragile I have been told. Almost anything can destroy the signal, ignition noise, powerlines, etc. Again, I still feel IBOC is a scam sold to the broadcasting industry. I just don't see it going anywhere, especially on AM. And who is going to buy the radios? (Patrick Martin, Seaside OR, IRCA via DXLD)

Re Kevin Martin, FCC, pushing HD:

I was interested to see he hints that AM IBOC nighttime operation is coming "soon". There is still a hurdle to overcome: the ITU Region 2 agreement on AM broadcasting has to be rewritten to allow digital operation, and as far as I can tell, not much progress has been made towards that goal. Canada in particular is still pressing its concerns about the interference problems. Of course, where money and politics are involved, logic and reason are not likely to prevail (Barry McLarnon, VE3JF Ottawa, ON, IRCA via DXLD)

HD STREAMING

<http://www.clearchannelmusic.com/hdradio/>

This website has live audio streaming for many of their stations' HD2 formats. ``It's all commercial-free (for now). Audio quality ranges from quite good for some streams to low-bit-rate for others (not a

good way to showcase HD Radio's supposed benefits!).`` Then there's

<http://www.ubiquity.com/hdradio>

Click on STATIONS ON-THE-AIR for an interactive map and list of all authorized and active HD stations and their HD1/HD2/HD3 formats. HD1, I believe, is the designation for AM stations having the HD feature, and is always the same as the AMain channel (Bruce Elving, March FMedia! via DXLD)

DRM: See CANADA; PORTUGAL

POWERLINE COMMUNICATIONS

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An Update: Broadband over Power Lines === THE CONCEPT OF INTERNET ACCESS VIA COMMON POWER LINES IS STILL ALIVE -- BUT IT'S A HARD SELL.  
By Associated Press Monday, March 20, 2006

George Tarnovsky can hear the Internet as he drives down Main Street in Manassas, Va., a rapid rattle emanating from the ham radio in his Chevy Tahoe.

''Suddenly you hear this incredible signal,'' Tarnovsky said.

The radio interference, which can resemble rapid clicks or the whine of a phone-line modem, comes from a system that provides high-speed Internet access to about 1,000 Manassas customers through their power lines. The interference makes ham radio all but impossible in the Washington, D.C., suburb, Tarnovsky said.

But in this fight of old and new, it appears that the old -- ham radio has been around for a century -- will be left standing. Broadband over power line, or BPL, is in danger of becoming an also-ran in the race to bring broadband Internet to the American home, even as it's overcoming some of its technical hurdles.

BPL is an attractive idea because of the ubiquity of the power grid. It has been touted as a ''third wire'' into the home, a possible competitor to broadband via cable and telephone wires -- and a way to bring high-speed service to rural areas underserved by cable and phone companies.

However, most of the utilities that have tried it have backed away, largely because of skepticism about the economic viability of the technology in the face of competition.

BPL hasn't lived up to its early promise as a rural broadband



alternative, either, because of a technical quirk that is also the source of the ham radio frustrations.

For broadband, a radio-frequency signal is applied to the power line, much like a high-frequency signal is applied to telephone copper wires to create a digital subscriber line, or DSL.

But unlike phone and cable wires, power lines that run above ground can act as large radio antennas, emitting the high-frequency signal as radio waves. According to the American Radio Relay League, the national ham radio association, radio waves from an improperly designed system can drown out amateur radio within a quarter of a mile.

The antenna nature of the line also means the signal loses its energy quickly, while the line picks up radio noise from the surroundings. A long line running in a rural area needs amplifiers at short intervals, adding to the costs; even so, the signal gets lost after few miles.

The operator of the Manassas broadband system, Communication Technologies Inc., or COMTek, said it has made adjustments to minimize ham radio interference.

'They have gone to what any fair person would say is incredible lengths to address those concerns,' COMTek spokesman Scott Stapf said.

Stapf said most complaints come from ham operators outside Manassas, reflecting 'a deliberate campaign on the part of the ARRL to make an example of COMTek, and I think that's a reflection of their generally anti-BPL philosophy.'

Tarnovsky lives five miles outside the town, but to him, that's no excuse for interfering with ham radio bands. He said the Internet signal threatens the communications services that ham radio operators can provide from their cars in emergencies like Hurricane Katrina.

'If we see interference, regardless of where it is, we have to report it to the FCC,' Tarnovsky said.

The Federal Communications Commission is both the guardian of the nation's airwaves and a champion of competition in telecommunications. It has generally spoken warmly about BPL's potential, but earlier this month, after two years of complaints from ham radio operators, the FCC told Manassas to eliminate any harmful interference.

Nonetheless, some companies are pushing forward, and some variants of the technology now get the thumbs-up from the national ham radio group

(via Artie Bigley, DXLD)

## PROPAGATION

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### GETTING THE MARCH 29 ECLIPSE BY RADIO

See thread at: <http://lwca.org/mb/msg/4870.htm>

Someone in Vienna wants to observe effects from Africa or ME, but what stations would be good candidates? I had to hunt quite a bit to find the timing of the eclipse: BEGINS 0840 UT, PEAKS 1011, ENDS 1145 UT (gh, DXLD)

### ARNIE CORO'S DXERS UNLIMITED'S HF PLUS LOW BAND VHF PROPAGATION UPDATE AND FORECAST

A geomagnetic storm, strong enough to trigger high latitude aurora borealis should be almost over by the time you hear this program or read the script on the world wide web. The high speed solar wind coming from a coronal hole in a geoeffective position was the cause of this disturbance. And now there is one developing sunspot group that has a complex magnetic configuration that may trigger even class M solar flares during the next 24 to 72 hours. So be on the alert for possible solar flares, that may produce sudden short wave blackouts

As the solar cycle enters into its final months, ionospheric absorption goes down to very low values, and this is making possible excellent reception of frequencies between 100 kiloHertz and 10 megahertz, the region of the radio spectrum that is going to be more productive during solar minimum years.

And talking about solar activity, my good friend, Cuban solar astronomer Angel Gonzalez Coroas, has confirmed to me, in an e-mail sent on Monday that his visual solar patrol has not yet shown a single high latitude young sunspot that will signal the real start up of solar cycle 24. Angel tells me that his February observations of the very quiet sun with many spotless days, was, in his opinion, just the beginning of cycle 23 minimum; and that he is pretty sure that cycle 24's first sunspots are going to start erupting during the next few months.

Scientists can tell the difference between the sunspots that belong to the old and those that are part of the new cycle, because there are several easy to recognize indications that help to distinguish between spots from the old cycle and those from the new one. One final comment, according to recent scientific findings, that correlate pretty well with past cycles, the still to start cycle 24 may be one of the most powerful on record, matching even super solar cycle

nineteen that averaged 207 sunspots during its period of peak activity. If this forecast becomes true, then radio amateurs around the world will enjoy the best higher bands propagation conditions in half a century!!!! [and DXers, SWLs, too, maybe, Arnie? gh]

And now amigos, as always at the end of the show here is Arnie Coro's Dxers Unlimited's HF plus low band VHF propagation update and forecast. Solar activity is low, but there is at least one active sunspot region that has developed a complex magnetic configuration that may lead to class M flares erupting during the next 48 to 72 hours. Optical sunspot count is between 30 and 35, and the equinoctial propagation conditions are very much with us despite the very low solar flux that we are seeing at this moment. Don't expect sporadic E openings for the next 4 to 5 weeks, and do be on the lookout for another period of very low ionospheric absorption expected to start by late Wednesday, when evening AM broadcast band conditions are going to be excellent once again (Arnie Coro, Radio Havana Cuba, Havana, Cuba, DXers Unlimited March 21-22, via Kevin Redding, ABDX via DXLD)

Geomagnetic activity ranged from quiet to major storm levels at middle latitudes, while quiet to severe storm levels were observed at high latitudes. Solar wind speed ranged from a low of about 350 km/s early on 14 March and a high of near 675 km/s early on 19 March. The period began with the solar wind speed around 400 km/s as a coronal hole high speed stream was moving out of geoeffective position. Solar wind speed slowly decreased to 350 km/s by early on 14 March, while the IMF Bz did not vary much beyond +/- 3 nT. The geomagnetic field responded with quiet conditions. On 15 March, the solar wind speed increased to approximately 560 km/s with the IMF Bz fluctuating between +10 to -7 nT. Mostly quiet to unsettled conditions were observed through early on 18 March. Early on 18 March, a recurrent coronal hole high speed stream moved into geoeffective position. Solar wind speed increased to around 600 km/s with the IMF Bz varying between +/- 11 nT. The geomagnetic field responded with active to major storm periods at middle latitudes, while high latitudes experienced minor to severe storm periods.

#### FORECAST OF SOLAR AND GEOMAGNETIC ACTIVITY 22 MARCH - 17 APRIL 2006

Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels with an isolated chance of moderate activity until 25 March when Region 862 is due to rotate around the west limb. No greater than 10 MeV proton events are expected. The greater than 2 MeV electron flux at geosynchronous orbit is expected to be at high levels on 22 ñ 25 March and 16 ñ 17 April.

The geomagnetic field is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels for the majority of the period. From 14 ñ 16 April, active to major

storm conditions are expected due to effects from a recurrent coronal hole wind stream.

:Product: 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table 27D0.txt

:Issued: 2006 Mar 21 2324 UTC

# Prepared by the US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, Space Environment Center

# Product description and SEC contact on the Web

# <http://www.sec.noaa.gov/wwire.html>

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# 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table

# Issued 2006 Mar 21

#

| # | UTC         | Radio Flux | Planetary | Largest  |
|---|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| # | Date        | 10.7 cm    | A Index   | Kp Index |
|   | 2006 Mar 22 | 80         | 8         | 3        |
|   | 2006 Mar 23 | 80         | 8         | 3        |
|   | 2006 Mar 24 | 80         | 12        | 3        |
|   | 2006 Mar 25 | 80         | 12        | 3        |
|   | 2006 Mar 26 | 75         | 10        | 3        |
|   | 2006 Mar 27 | 75         | 7         | 2        |
|   | 2006 Mar 28 | 75         | 5         | 2        |
|   | 2006 Mar 29 | 75         | 5         | 2        |
|   | 2006 Mar 30 | 75         | 5         | 2        |
|   | 2006 Mar 31 | 75         | 5         | 2        |
|   | 2006 Apr 01 | 75         | 5         | 2        |
|   | 2006 Apr 02 | 75         | 5         | 2        |
|   | 2006 Apr 03 | 75         | 10        | 3        |
|   | 2006 Apr 04 | 75         | 8         | 3        |
|   | 2006 Apr 05 | 75         | 8         | 3        |
|   | 2006 Apr 06 | 75         | 12        | 3        |
|   | 2006 Apr 07 | 75         | 12        | 3        |
|   | 2006 Apr 08 | 75         | 5         | 2        |
|   | 2006 Apr 09 | 80         | 5         | 2        |
|   | 2006 Apr 10 | 80         | 8         | 3        |
|   | 2006 Apr 11 | 80         | 8         | 3        |
|   | 2006 Apr 12 | 80         | 5         | 2        |
|   | 2006 Apr 13 | 80         | 5         | 2        |
|   | 2006 Apr 14 | 80         | 20        | 4        |
|   | 2006 Apr 15 | 80         | 25        | 5        |
|   | 2006 Apr 16 | 80         | 20        | 4        |
|   | 2006 Apr 17 | 80         | 12        | 3        |

(<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/radio> via WORLD OF RADIO 1309, DXLD) ###